

**LUZERNE/WYOMING COUNTIES DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROGRAM  
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMISSION MEETING**

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

The Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug and Alcohol Program Executive Commission conducted its monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

**Participants**

Ryan Hogan, Pamela Coveleski, Marie Baratta	Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug & Alcohol Prog.
John Alunni	Luzerne County Office of Human Services
Charles Blewitt	Executive Commission Chair
Cara Divine Homza	Executive Commission Co-Chair
Gene Dziak	Executive Commission Secretary
Bonnie Dodson, John McCarthy	
Tee Simpkins	X-Officio Executive Commission
Rachael Wydra, Angela Farrell	DOH NEPA/Public/Community

**Welcome** Dr. Blewitt welcomed everyone and the January 22, 2020 minutes were reviewed. *A motion was made to accept the minutes by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Dziak. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

**Administrator's Report** Mr. Hogan reviewed the Warm Hand Off at Tyler Memorial Hospital, Wyoming County this morning and confirmed that they have 4 to 5 overdose individuals per month through the ER. Lehigh Valley Hazleton Hospital ER are working on improvements for the Warm Hand Off with CRS staff through Northeast Counseling Services. Mr. Hogan reviewed the MAT Workgroup meeting held for Providers here at the SCA specifically regarding Cognitive Behavioral Therapies and Treatment, Clinical Services and Treatment, and Best Practices. Providers will work toward improving frequency of services and treatment for workgroups, and cognitive behavior therapy, and counseling consistency to assure they are in compliance with CCBH/NBHCC Guidelines. Mr. Hogan will schedule an upcoming MAT Workgroup meeting and invite CCBH/NBHCC. CCBH have reached out to Mr. Hogan, and Mr. Alunni to review concerns regarding Just Believe Recovery and Pyramid Dallas. Mr. Hogan noted that Children's Service Center have been providing SAP in the School District and are contracted with the SCA. Dr. Blewitt applauded Mr. Hogan for offering SAP Services to this fundamentally important education in Luzerne and Wyoming County School districts. WVADS have been contracted to provide SAP services and the SCA have reviewed the low numbers of SAP services they have provided that are being addressed by Mr. Hogan at this time. *Dr. Blewitt asked for a motion to accept the report. A motion was made by Dr. Blewitt, seconded by Mr. McCarthy. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

**Luzerne County Office of Human Services** Mr. Alunni reviewed that a year ago he met with The Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts and The National Center of Substance Abuse and Child Welfare. They engaged in an initiative across the State to better coordinate the services provided by the Child Welfare Agency and the County Drug & Alcohol Programs in Pennsylvania. We were asked if we would participate in this initiative in order to become a Blue Print County in our State. Mr. Alunni reviewed that Mr. Ross as the SCA Administrator agreed that this would be very beneficial to move forward in the integration of services for our Counties' Residents. Counties participating in this Blue Print County initiative are Luzerne/Wyoming, Lehigh, Monroe, and Lackawanna Counties. Mr. Alunni confirmed a team was developed and he took the Lead at the request of Luzerne County Judge Jennifer Rogers who oversees family court systems. The team consisted of some of our Service Providers and County personnel. A work plan was developed and presented by Mr. Alunni to the Work Group two weeks ago in Harrisburg. The decision of the chosen County will be announced in May at their Annual Conference to see which County will be the Blue Print County. The information collected through a survey regarding drug and alcohol abuse in Luzerne and Wyoming Counties offered over 529 collected responses that were all very helpful regarding where are the issues between children & youth and drug and alcohol issues in our counties can be improved. The Level of Care Assessment/Referral/Inpatient Bed Process has been streamlined and Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug & Alcohol Program will now complete all impartial assessments in both Luzerne and Wyoming Counties. This will begin in early Spring as an Agency Wide Test Study Project that will be tracked 6, 12, 24, or more months to determine outcomes in recovery, and status of their children, kinship agreement, was family separated, etc. Dr. Blewitt reviewed that this is a very well done plan and we all look forward to the data, and outcomes. *Dr. Blewitt asked for a motion to accept the report. A motion was made by Mr. Dziak, seconded by Dr. Blewitt. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

**Case Management Report** Mr. Hogan reviewed that Ms. Sprau has been interviewed and chosen for the CM Supervisor position. Mr. Hogan confirmed that she accepted the position and the SCA is awaiting a start date. The SCA has three vacant CM Specialist positions, and one of those positions have a candidate chosen, and it was accepted by the new staff, and the SCA are awaiting their start date as well. Mr. Hogan stated that all the credit goes to the Case Management Unit and how hard they are working to assist each and every person in the most efficient way through the assessment and referral process. Mr. Hogan presented a CM Unit Comprehensive Assessment Monthly Report for January 2020 and February thus far in 2020. The report broke down each Case Management Specialist scheduled and assessed clients with Activity for each Month.

**Fiscal Report** Ms. Coveleski reviewed expenses in the Fiscal report, noting the WVADS was unable to draw down contracted money. Mr. Hogan confirmed that WVADS Contracts are being reviewed at the SCA level. *Dr. Blewitt asked for a motion to accept the report. A motion was made by Mr. Dziak, seconded by Mr. McCarthy. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

**Prevention Committee Report** Mr. Hogan confirmed that the Providers have been asked to look at programs/services they would like to add in the upcoming FY as well as take out programs that may not be meeting the student needs. He confirmed that the Prevention Needs Assessment Phase G will be ongoing over the next year. *Dr. Blewitt asked for a motion to accept the report. A motion was made by Ms. Dodson, seconded by Ms. Divine Homza. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

**Provider Representative** Ms. Simpkins noted that Children's Service Center has expanded and have added a Nurse Practitioner. Clem-Mar, Ms. Barto noted that they staff are in need of local DDAP Trainings that include Ethics which is being offered on March 19, 2020 at our SCA. A Save the Date was sent out to all Providers' last week and the training has reached full capacity of 30 individuals already. Ms. Simpkins noted that Cleanslate have noticed new patients coming in with more Methamphetamine use. Ms. Simpkins relayed that MH Appointments are difficult to obtain in a timely manner as most are out by 3 to 4 weeks or more. Providers are also conducting Tele-Skype but are also scheduling out by 3 to 4 weeks. *Dr. Blewitt asked for a motion to accept the report. A motion was made by Mr. Dziak, seconded by Mr. McCarthy. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

**Executive Commission Nominating Committee** The Executive Commission is in need of one Student Representative Volunteer for Luzerne County. Mr. Bieski has volunteered and been interviewed, accepted, and appointed as a new Executive Commission member and will attend the March Meeting. A resume' for a Kings College student was unanimously voted on by the Executive Commission as a wonderful candidate for the vacancy of Student Representative, and was disapproved and denied by the Luzerne County Council after their interview, as the Student would be living in Luzerne County for nine months of the next several years, but would be out of the County for three months of each year. Wyoming County has three volunteer vacancies at this time. *Dr. Blewitt asked for a motion to accept the report. A motion was made by Ms. Dodson, seconded by Mr. McCarthy. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

**By-Laws and County Joinder Agreement** The By-Laws have been reviewed and approved in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020. The By-Laws will be reviewed on a bi-yearly basis in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of calendar year 2022. Mr. Hogan confirmed that the term of the County Joinder Agreement is July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2022. *Dr. Blewitt asked for a motion to accept the report. A motion was made by Dr. Blewitt, seconded by Ms. Dodson. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

**Next Meeting** The next Executive Commission Meeting will take place on March 25, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. at 111 N. Pennsylvania Ave. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701-3505. *Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.*

*Reviewed by: Ryan Hogan, Assistant Administrator*

*Submitted by: Marie Baratta, Administrative Assistant*